

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN et al.

Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR MONITORING
SUPPLIER ACTIVITY IN A SUPPLY CHAIN
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Appl. No.: 09/816,331

Filing Date: 03/23/2001

Examiner: Florian M. Zeender

Art Unit: 3627

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

07/19/2004 EABUBAK1 00000003 09816331

02 FC:1806

180.00 DP

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.113, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

All of the documents are in English.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

FEE

A fee in connection with submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(c) in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR §1.17(p) is attached.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date July 16, 2004

By 

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William T. Ellis
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,874

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: July 16, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	09/816,331
		Filing Date	March 23, 2001
		First Named Inventor	George H. HOFFMAN et al.
		Group Art Unit	3627
		Examiner Name	Florian M. Zeender
		Attorney Docket Number	062834-0136
Sheet	1	of	3

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. 1	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		4,799,156		Shavit et al.	01-17-1989	
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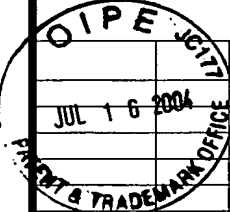
¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: July 16, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			Complete if Known													
Sheet 2 of 3			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Application Number</td> <td>09/816,331</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>March 23, 2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>George H. HOFFMAN et al.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Art Unit</td> <td>3627</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>Florian M. Zeender</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>062834-0136</td> </tr> </table>		Application Number	09/816,331	Filing Date	March 23, 2001	First Named Inventor	George H. HOFFMAN et al.	Group Art Unit	3627	Examiner Name	Florian M. Zeender	Attorney Docket Number	062834-0136
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		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
	✓	Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 422-519	
	✓	Noori, Hamid; Production and Operations Management; Total Quality Responsiveness; McGraw-Hill; 1995; pages 592-601	
	✓	PR Newswire: Andersen Consulting Announce Strategic Alliance, Looksmart, September 6, 2000	
	✓	Stephanie Stahl, "A Whopping Inventory Task – Burger King's purchasing agency lures suppliers online to streamline its huge distribution system", INFORMATIONWEEK, 1994	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	
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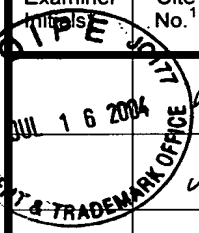
¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

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		John Rendleman, "Burger King Orders AT&T Mail Service", CommunicationsWeek, 1994.	
		Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 4 th Edition, Microsoft Press, 1999, pages 167, 242, 334, 421, 443, 444 and 462	
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		Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary; 10 th Edition; 1996; page 139.	

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